

# Utah County

## Agency upset over Tibble water release

By Tom Walton  
Deseret News correspondent

20 Sep 1986

**AMERICAN FORK** — The Department of Wildlife Resources is steaming mad that private companies released water from the Tibble Fork Reservoir, and one official said the department is considering legal action.

"We (the DWR) owned the recreation rights to the water, and there were fisheries below that were lost. They had no authorization to release that water. We'll submit our case to the Utah attorney general's office, and then it will be up to them," said Karen Green of the DWR's Salt Lake office.

"The water companies pulled water out and didn't contact us, and the water was ours as a conservation pool," said Charlie Thomp-

son, regional fishery manager in the DWR's Springville office. "I don't think the companies maliciously caused a problem, but we could have worked together, and we should work together. That's why we purchased into the conservation pool."

However, Farrell V. Larson, president of the American Fork Irrigation Co., disputes the DWR's claim. "We maintain that it's our water. They haven't bought adequate shares," Larson said. "Until we see certificates of (the DWR's) ownership, we own it."

The DWR's problem began when the Forest Service told the irrigation company it would have to upgrade the dams on Pitsburg Lake and Little Silver Lake. However, Larson said it would be more economical to see if the Tibble Fork Reservoir could be

dredged to accommodate the excess water. The water had to be lowered in the reservoir to see how much dredging was feasible.

Thompson said the department wrote a letter to Larson expressing its concerns, and the water stopped flowing out of the reservoir last week. However, the officer said, the normal flow of water into American Fork River was completely shut down for a time, drying up the creek and killing many of the fish that were sent downstream when the reservoir was initially lowered.

Green said the loss of fish initially was minimal, but when the flow of water shut down, that number became more significant.

The DWR had transplanted 2,000 rainbow trout into the reservoir at a cost of \$1,500.

Thompson said the loss of fish will virtually eliminate fishing at Tibble Fork for this season. He said there was also damage to the reservoir's native brown trout population. "Some of the brown trout were pretty good sized, and it will take many years for them to come back."

Green said the DWR lost thousands of dollars in loss of fish and damage to the fisheries below the reservoir.

There are conflicting stories, Larson said the water flowing into the river was never completely shut off. He noted that a DWR officer told him only two fish died.

The reservoir is in the Uinta National Forest, about 10 miles up American Fork Canyon at the intersection of Deer Creek and American Fork rivers.



# Special tours are planned at Tim Cave

AMERICAN FORK — In addition to the regulars of Timpanogos Cave National Monument, the National Park Service will offer a variety of special tours from June 14

Special tours available on the first and third of the day except Saturdays and holidays.

The special tours include five visits to the cave to give a light tour of the 1.5 mile, of 15 and by special vehicle tours of the cave, which is used late

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200. Cave National Monument

Write: Superintendent, Timpanogos



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## Special tours are planned at Timp Cave

6-8-87  
AMERICAN FORK — In addition to the regular tours of Timpanogos Cave National Monument, the National Park Service will offer a variety of special tours from June 14 through Aug. 22.

Special tours are available on the first and last tours of the day except Saturday evenings and holidays.

The special offerings include: candlelight tours, limited to groups of five visitors; flashlight tours, limited to groups of 10; photography tours, limited to groups of 15 and available by special request only; historic tours of the cave's lower passage, which hasn't been used since the late 1930s, limited to groups of five, no children under 6 years old; nature walks, covering the 1.5 miles from the Visitor Center to the cave entrance, limited to groups of 20, offered at 7:30 a.m. Saturdays.

Reservations can be made for the special tours only by calling 756-5238.

Beginning June 13, tour ticket sales hours will be extended to a 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. schedule.

Cave tours are presented by National Park Service rangers every 10 to 20 minutes, seven days a week throughout the summer.

Fees are \$3 for those 16 and older, \$2 for ages 6 through 15 and \$1.50 for those over 62. Anyone under 6 will be admitted free. Anyone under 16 must be accompanied by an adult at all times.

Regular cave tours are on a first-come, first-served basis. No reservations are accepted.

The monument is on U-92, 2 miles up American Fork Canyon. For additional information, call 756-5238 or write: Superintendent, Timpanogos Cave National Monument, RR3, Box 200, American Fork, Ut. 84003-9803.



# Timpanogos Cave celebrates centennial of its discovery

By JOSEPHINE ZIMMERMAN

Herald Staff Writer

AMERICAN FORK — He followed mountain lion tracks and found a cave.

One hundred years ago, in 1887, Martin Hansen, a farmer and logger, was cutting timber in American Fork Canyon when he saw mountain lion tracks in the snow. He followed them up a steep slope to the higher ledges, and they led him to an opening in the face of the cliff.

The opening led to what is now known as Hansen's Cave, the first of three which make up Timpanogos Cave National Monument.

The National Park Service is celebrating the 100th anniversary of the discovery with a centennial exhibit at Timpanogos Cave Visitor's Center. The exhibit will be on display throughout the year, daily from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Funded by the Southwest Parks and Monuments Association, the display features turn-of-the-century photographs of Martin Hansen, the pioneer days in American Fork Canyon, and development of Timpanogos Cave National Monument.

Tours of the cave will not begin until May 16, weather permitting.

Hansen's discovery led him into a cave near what is now known as The Grotto. Walking a short distance into the opening, he suddenly realized that, should he corner the mountain lion, his only weapon was his ax. He turned back toward the entrance and saw the floor was littered with bones and other debris.

Making a mental note of the location, Hansen planned to explore the cave later. During the follow-

(See CAVE, Page 6)



Steve Olsen Photo

Additions are being made to the cave exhibit.

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## CAVE:

(Continued from Page 1)

ing winter he interested other men in his discovery and they joined together to open the cave to the public.

Hansen's Cave was 100 yards long and 30 feet high. At the end is a pool of crystal water which is a source of drinking water for today's visitors.

The men hacked out a rough trail to the cave entrance, straight up 1,200 feet with no switchbacks. It was so steep they felled trees against the higher ledges and trimmed the branches to form crude ladders. A wooden door was placed over the cave's entrance.

For about four years Hansen conducted tours through the cave on request, charging a small fee for the service. The visitors took souvenirs, and some people even broke into the cave to destroy and remove dripstone formations.

Sometime during 1891 Hansen stopped taking tours through the cave and did not return for a year or two. Unknown to him, men from a neighboring town

mined the cave for the "onyx" deposits, working under contract with a company in Chicago.

They stripped the cave of its decoration and destroyed its scenic value, removing at least two freight cars of material. It has been said that some of the slabs weighed as much as 15 tons.

No one knows just where the "onyx" went. One rumor has it that some may have been used for decorative purposes in construction of the American Museum of Natural History in New York but no record was kept of the source of building material.

Some of the flowstone may also have been used in the Salt Lake Temple of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. A mantle on the third floor of the temple reportedly consists of polished slabs of "onyx" taken from the cave, fashioned by John Devey, a former resident of Lehi.

A history of the cave relates that a granddaughter of Devey, living in Provo, has a small table made by him, consisting of polished columns and discs arranged in steps and made of calcite that supposedly was taken from Hansen's Cave.

Timpanogos Cave, the second to be discovered, apparently was located in 1915 by James C. Gough. A year later Gough, his son, James W., and John Hutchings, filed a claim on the cave, but the Goughs



then moved to Idaho. To conceal the entrance, the younger Gough piled rocks over the opening, and no one else apparently entered the cave until 1921.

Rediscovery of Timpanogos Cave is credited to Vearl J. Manwill of Payson, who sought to discover the "mysterious cave in American Fork Canyon" that was the subject of rumors.

He located the sealed-over entrance, and with others explored the beautiful cave. They made their way clear to what is now called "Father Time's Jewel Box."

Manwill became president of the Payson Alpine Club, a group of outdoor enthusiasts who explored the new cave and were concerned about its possible depredation. Their club was dedicated to protecting and preserving the cave from vandalism.

Management of the cave had a checkered history, with the Payson Alpine Club working to protect it, and a Commercial Club from American Fork raising money to erect a good door and to light the cave. Eventually it was managed by the U.S. Forest Service, with public support.

Forest Service funds were not sufficient to manage the cave and its increasing number of visitors. An unusual aspect of the National Monument was the fact that, for 24 years it was operated by a commit-

tee of local businessmen, though it was on government property and under the administration of federal agencies. Until 1946 all operational expenses were met solely from fees collected for guide services, and any improvements were made with private funds.

In 1947 the National Park Service assumed operational control of the cave, and the public Timpanogos Cave Committee was officially dissolved.

Middle Cave, the last of the three, was found by George Heber Hansen, son of Martin Hansen, and his nephew, Wayne E. Hansen, in the fall of 1921.

Construction of the trail began the same year, and on the opening day in the spring of 1922, more than 350 people were taken on a guided tour of the caves.

To protect the caves from vandalism, a Forest Ranger, L.L. Hammer, was stationed at Cave Camp, where he lived with his family in a tent.

A new record was set on Oct. 14, 1922 when President Warren G. Harding created Timpanogos Cave National Monument, only one month after an official request and within 14 months of the last discovery.

A new lighting system was installed in 1939 with funds provided by the old Economic Recovery Administration.

# Timpanogos Cave

10-12-88

Cave tours at Timpanogos National Monument will be available through Sunday, Oct. 30. Visitor center hours will be 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Ticket sales for cave tours are available between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. daily.

Chief Ranger Scott Isaacson reports, "The fall color display in American Fork Canyon is spectacular. This time of year is an exceptional time to visit Timpanogos Cave." Saturday and Sunday afternoons can be very busy. Cave tour tickets may be sold out early.

Timpanogos Cave will offer unique field trip opportunities for over 5,000 local school children this year. To avoid a wait, visit the cave early in the morning or after 12 p.m.

The snack bar and picnic areas are open daily through Oct. 30 for your enjoyment. The visitor center remains open through the winter from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily. The caves will reopen May 1, 1989. For further information, please call (801) 756-5238.



## Park service names cave superintendent

4-3-88  
Michael Owen Hill, veteran National Park Service ranger, has been named superintendent of Timpanogos Cave National Monument in American Fork Canyon.

Hill, 39, will come to Utah from Biscayne National Park in Florida, where he was chief ranger. He will begin his duties April 10.

A decorated ex-Marine sergeant and skilled horseman, Hill succeeds Bill Wellman at Timpanogos. Wellman is now superintendent of Great Sand Dunes National Monument in Colorado.

He is a 1975 honors graduate in natural resources from Humboldt State in Arcata, Calif., and is a fifth generation native of Lakeport, Calif., where his family has farmed and ranched.

He worked as a cowboy in

his teens and his skill in horsemanship was a contributing factor in his landing his first seasonal job as a backcountry horse ranger at Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks in 1973.

He spent one summer between jobs in Salt Lake City and Richfield, visiting Utah's national parks while working in a racing stable.

His first permanent job in the National Parks Service came as a horse patrol ranger at Petrified Forest National Park, Ariz. in 1977.

Since then he has handled progressively more responsible positions at Channel Islands, Shenandoah National Park, Va., and at Biscayne. While at Shenandoah he met and married Janice Carpenter, also a ranger. She is currently a park ranger at Everglades National Park.